



Quick Facts

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE PROGRAM

What is the SNS Program?

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a program of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Initiative. Developed in 1999 to assist states and communities in responding to extreme public health emergencies from terrorist attacks or natural disasters, SNS has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the public in a health emergency.

What is in the Stockpile?

The SNS contains medicines, vaccines, medical and surgical supplies, life-support medications, and breathing supplies. It is not a first response tool. Rather, it is designed to supplement and re-supply a local and/or state response to an emergency within the United States or its territories.

The two major components of the stockpile are 12-Hour Push Packages and the Managed Inventory (MI). The Push Packages contain 50 tons of pharmaceuticals, antidotes and medical supplies that will treat a variety of illnesses. MI can either replenish the Push Package or be tailored with specific medical supplies to respond to a defined agent or other specific public health threat.

The 12-Hour Push Packages arrive within 12 hours once deployed at the federal level. Supplies are distributed to local communities as quickly as possible. MI is shipped to arrive within 24-36 hours after deployment. Both components are coordinated through the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Emergency Preparedness Office.

How is the SNS activated?

The decision to send SNS is a collaborative effort between local, state and federal officials. Local health departments will order medical/pharmaceutical resources using the Standardized Emergency Management System. CDHS, Office of Homeland Security and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services will recommend to the governor to make a formal request to the CDC for SNS.

Where are these supplies/medicines sent?

The supplies are delivered to a state Receipt, Storage, and Staging facility. Upon local request, the supplies are then distributed to community clinics, hospitals, treatment centers and neighborhood emergency health centers.

How do I get the medicine if I need it?

Listen to the radio and television to find out where to go. Local health departments will announce locations, hours of operations, what identification for self or family members to bring, and when to arrive to pick up medications for you and your immediate family. If you are sick, you will also be informed of where to go to receive help and treatment.

Where can I get more information about SNS?

For more information about the federal SNS, go to <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile/>. For more information regarding California's SNS program, see the CDHS' Emergency Preparedness Office Web site at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/epo/EPOSNS.html>.